Puri-Khurdha Highway

2728. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to build the Puri-Khurdha Highway has been finalised;

(b) whether Government have allotted necessary fund for it;

(c) whether any alternative proposal such as tendering for private sector participation has been considered; and

(d) the overall status of the project and by when it is expected to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Puri to Khurdha is connected by NH-203 and NH-5 via Bhubaneshwar.

(b) Four laning of Bhubaneshwar-Khurdha section of NH-5 is already in progress as a part of Golden Quadrilateral under National Highways Development Programme. 36 km length of NH-203 has already been improved under Improvement of Riding Quality Programme. Improvement of Riding Quality in 15 km long stretch and construction of paved shoulder in 13.5 km long stretch of NH-203 have been sanctioned during Annual Plan 2001-02.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

National Highway Development Project

2729. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review of the progress of Rs. 58,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the works being undertaken and the funds allocated/ released to each State during the last three years, till date. State-wise; and

(d) the progress made thereon and by when the said project is likely to be completed indicating target if any. fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.(RETD.)B.C.KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Periodic review of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is being done and the works are mostly as per the targets.

(c) Total 123 contracts of value of Rs. 18063 crore are in progress on NHDP. Funds for NHDP are not allocated State-wise. An amount of Rs.4208 crore was released during the last three years to National Highways Authority of India for implementation of NHDP and some other projects.

(d) NHDP has total length of 13151 kms. comprising 5851 kms. of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and 7300 kms. of North-South & East-West Corridors (Corridors). 4-laning of 1063 kms. of GQ and 716 kms. of corridors has been completed. The entire NHDP is likely to be completed by December 2007.

Launch of Spy Satellite by PSLV

2730. SHRIPREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time our scientists have launched a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle carrying a Spy Satellite;

(b) whether it is reported to be a Technology Experiment Satellite to provide imagery with one metre resolution; and

(c) if so. what are the details of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARARAJE): (a) India has launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) successfully five times so far. In the recent launch of PSLV-C3, India has launched successfully Technology Experiment Satellite (TES). It has also launched two small satellites. PROB A of Belgium and BIRD of Germany into precise orbit.

(b) Yes, Sir. Technology Experiment Satellite (TES) has a camera with 1 m. spectral resolution.

(c) The main objective of the Technology Experiment Satellite was to develop and test a set of critical technologies to provide on-orbit demonstration